



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Atlantic City, NJ

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

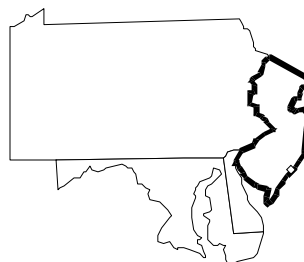
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Atlantic City for a Brownfields Pilot. Atlantic City (population 38,000) is located in southern New Jersey on Absecon Island, a barrier island off the Atlantic Coast. Fisheries, glass and candy manufacturing, and resort tourism used to be the staples of Atlantic City's economy. Overfishing, a decline in manufacturing in the 1960s, and competition from other beach resorts have contributed to the City's economic decline. In 1976, New Jersey voters approved casino gambling, and the first Atlantic City casino opened in 1978. Despite development along the beach and the popularity of 13 casino-hotels, Atlantic City still has many abandoned industrial sites that hinder redevelopment of its downtown. Unemployment is at 12% and the poverty rate is 24%. African-American and Hispanic residents comprise 67% of the City's population.

In 1997, the Atlantic City Department of Engineering identified seven abandoned downtown brownfields with historic industrial uses. The Pilot will target three of these sites. Selection of the three sites will be made by a Brownfields Task Force, which will be formed during the Pilot project to guide outreach activities and redevelopment planning. The Task Force will include representatives from neighborhoods in four of the City's six wards, local

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Atlantic City, New Jersey

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will target three former industrial sites in disadvantaged neighborhoods in the City's downtown area.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 2
(212) 637-4314

Visit the EPA Region 2 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/r02earth/superfnd/brownfld/bfmainpg.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

governments, technical experts, and other special interest groups.

OBJECTIVES

Atlantic City's objective is to stimulate the local economy by revitalizing distressed properties and returning them to their former level of prosperity. To aid in this effort, the Pilot will establish a Brownfields Task Force to identify and prioritize brownfields, evaluate cleanup and redevelopment alternatives, perform preliminary site assessments, and conduct community outreach activities. The Pilot will also aid in the identification of additional funds for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment through several State programs and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Establishing the Brownfields Task Force;
- Preparing outreach materials and conducting community outreach activities;
- Conducting environmental site assessments; and
- Preparing cleanup and redevelopment plans, including developing financing strategies and reuse concepts.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.